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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/127,483	07/31/1998	CHRISTOPHER L. BOYD	RIC-97-118	1242

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WORLDCOM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

TSEGAYE, SABA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2662

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/127,483

Applicant(s)

BOYD ET AL.

Examiner

Saba Tsegaye

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Von Hammerstein et al. in view of White et al.

Regarding claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, 16 and 18, Von Hammerstein et al. disclose an apparatus and method for communicating link status information across a frame relay network. Fig. 2 shows FRAGs 22a-22c and FRADs 14a-14c (claimed storing, in plural attachment devices, information respecting voice terminals) and Frame Relay Network 12. Further, Von Hammerstein et al. describe that the local and remote FRADs join the segmented PVCs by translating between their respective addressing fields. The remote FRAD periodically issues link status messages to the local FRAD to apprise the local FRAD of the status of each of the sub-multiplexed PVCs (claimed generating a request from a particular attachment device to another attachment device for information respecting voice terminals).

Regarding claims 2 and 12, Von Hammerstein et al. disclose means in plural attachment devices for generating a query to one or more virtual circuits, to determine if the circuit accesses another attachment (column 6, lines 34-51 and column 9, lines 38-55).

Regarding claims 3 and 13, Von Hammerstein et al. disclose a method wherein the particular attachment device, transmits accessibility information, respecting voice terminals

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accessible through the voice switch associated with the particular attachment device, to the another attachment device (column 13, lines 45-65).

Regarding claims 4, 7, 14 and 17, Von Hammerstein et al. discloses a method wherein the another attachment device responds to the request by the particular attachment device by transmitting the accessibility information respecting voice terminals reachable via the associated voice switch (column 9, lines 38-55).

Regarding claims 9 and 19, Von Hammerstein et al. disclose a method wherein the voice switch is a PBX and is also coupled to the PSTN (column 15, lines 29-40).

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Von Hammerstein et al. disclose a method wherein the information respecting voice terminals accessible through the associated voice switch identifies terminal which are directly accessible to the associated voice switch or terminal which are accessible through the associated voice switch through a packet switched network (column 9, lines 49-55)

However, Von Hammerstein et al. do not disclose storing at the particular attachment device information received in response to the request from the particular attachment device.

White et al. discloses a system and method for providing telephone type services over the internetwork. Fig. 4 shows gateway routers 104, 116 and Internet address database 112. The gateway router 104 queries the Internet address database 112 for the Internet address of the destination gateway router 116.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add storage for storing at the particular attachment device information received in response to the request from the particular attachment device, such as that suggested by White et

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al., in the FRAD of Von Hammerstein et al. in order to reduce data processing delay in the frame relay network.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lee et al. disclose a personal mobility and communication termination for users operating in a plurality of heterogeneous networks.


Toyosawa discloses method and system for connecting communication devices utilizing connection information obtained from a server on a network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saba Tsegaye whose telephone number is (703) 308-4754. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (703) 305-4744. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

ST
November 27, 2001


Aili Patel
Primary Examiner